

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           An inflatable life vest is provided including a vest and an  
inflatable bladder situated therein. Next provided is an air  
actuation mechanism comprising a mounting assembly which  
includes a threaded opening in communication with the inflatable  
bladder. In use, the threaded opening is equipped for releasably  
10 receiving a cylindrical pressurized air canister. A valve is slidably  
situated above the threaded opening with a pin coupled to a bottom  
surface thereof. A spring is situated between the valve and the  
threaded opening. The valve has a first unbiased orientation  
wherein the pin sits distant the threaded opening and a second  
15 biased orientation wherein the pin resides within the threaded  
opening for effecting the release of air from the pressurized air  
canister. The mounting assembly further includes a lever pivotally  
attached to the mounting assembly and adapted to transfer the valve  
to the second biased orientation upon the pivoting thereof. Further  
20 provided is an automatic and manual air actuator which are both  
adapted to effect the pivoting of the lever.

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